

show. In several instances, he mistakes the time of events that he undertakes to narrate, but he and others have so completely identified May 20th as the date upon which some resolutions were adopted, that, in the absence of better evidence we may assume that a meeting was held on that day, in order to take some action upon the news of the Battle of Lexington, which, we know, arrived that week, the 20th occurring on Saturday. And it makes no difference whether they met on Friday the 19th and continued the meeting over until 2 a. m. of the 20th, or met on Saturday morning the 20th, so far as the essential fact is concerned, that a meeting was held at that time and that certain resolutions were adopted. Confining the issue to this essential fact, I have seen nothing that contradicts the testimony of the many eye-witnesses on that point. We can imagine the excitement and anger among these descendants of the bold defenders of Londonderry and Enniskillen at the news of Lexington, how they would hold a public meeting as soon as the crowd could gather, how in the anger and excitement of the moment they should adopt resolutions, which on calm second thought they would realize were premature and unwise. That there were two meetings, at least, is perfectly apparent from the fact that the papers of which J. McKnitt Alexander had the custody were resolutions adopted at a public meeting of which he was secretary, whereas those of the 31st were adopted at a committee meeting, Ephraim Brevard being the secretary of that committee. The resolutions of the 31st, too, necessarily presupposes a previous meeting, or meetings. They are not the product of a day or of a week. They were not devised by one mind or written by one hand. They show calm deliberation, and not emotional excitement or sudden anger, such as that provoked by news of the Battle of Lexington. It seems to me, with deference, that the modern historians have taken issue on immaterial facts and have obtained a verdict on those issues alone. Captain Jack did not take the resolutions of the 20th to Philadelphia; he did